

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 311855Z MAR 78
FM USMISSION USNATO
TO CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
USNMR SHAPE BE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0420
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USNATO 03324

USCINCEUR FOR ECCS

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR NATO
SUBJECT: REPORT ON VISIT OF MR. RICHARD MCELIECE,
SURVEY AND INVESTIGATIONS STAFF, HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE
REF: USNATO 3139, 242155Z MAR 78
SUMMARY: IN A FULL DAY VISIT WITH MISSION, SHAPE, AND
USDEL REPRESENTATIVES, THE SURVEY AND INVESTIGATION TEAM
COMPLETED THEIR FILE ON US PREFINANCING IN THE INFRA-
STRUCTURE PROGRAM. THEY HAVE A FAIR UNDERSTANDING OF
US ACTIONS IN THE PROGRAM AND OF THE CHANCES FOR RECOUP-
MENT OF VARIOUS CATEGORIES OF PREFINANCED PROJECTS. WE
BELIEVE THEY WERE SATISFIED WITH THE INFORMATION GATHERED
ON THEIR EUROPEAN TRIP.

1. MESSRS MCELIECE AND KELLER VISITED THE US MISSION ON
30 MAR 78 AND SPENT THE FULL DAY WITH MISSION STAFF
(LOVELAND AND MULLEN), USDEL REP (COL MUELLER) AND USNMR
REPS (CDR HARPER AND MAJ MADERAS). MUCH OF THE TIME WAS
SPENT ON CLARIFICATION OF ROUTINE FINANCIAL MATTERS LEFT
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UNSOLVED IN PREVIOUS VISITS. WE BELIEVE THE TEAM NOW
UNDERSTANDS THE INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING AND ACCOUNTING
SYSTEM AND RECOGNIZES THAT A NUMBER OF THE TYPES OF
INFORMATION THEY HAD REQUESTED COULD NOT BE ASSEMBLED
EASILY.

2. PARTICULAR QUESTIONS BY MR. MCELIECE WERE ANSWERED

AS FOLLOWS:

A. QUESTION: HOW DO THE MAJOR NATO COMMANDERS ALLOCATE PRIORITIES AND WHY DO THEY NOT PROGRAM MORE OF THE PROJECTS PREFINANCED BY THE US?

ANSWER: SHAPE REP INDICATED THAT SACEUR FOCUSED ON A BALANCED DEFENSE PROGRAM. SHAPE BELIEVED THAT THE SCARCITY OF INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDS FORCED THAT APPROACH IN ORDER TO INSURE THE MOST CREDIBLE DEFENSE. IN PARTICULAR SHAPE WAS AWARE OF US DISCONTENT OVER LACK OF PROGRAMMING FOR AIRCRAFT SHELTERS OVER THE LAST 5 YEARS. THE DECISION HAS BEEN BASED ON THE FACT THAT PREVIOUS PROGRAMS HAD ACHIEVED A HIGH DEGREE OF SHELTERING ON THE CONTINENT AND THAT SACEUR BELIEVED THAT HIS FORWARD STORAGE, COMMUNICATIONS, AND COMMAND AND CONTROL REQUIREMENTS WERE MORE URGENTLY REQUIRED IN THE 1975-79 TIME FRAME.

B. QUESTION: DID COUNTRIES OTHER THAN THE US PREFINANCE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS?

ANSWER: MISSION REP PRODUCED FILES OF BOTH US AND NON-US PREFINANCING STATEMENTS WHICH PROVED THAT THE TOTAL OF THE ALLIES PREFINANCING WAS ABOUT EQUAL TO THAT OF THE US.

C. QUESTION: WHAT ARE THE CHANCES FOR RECOUPMENT OF CONFIDENTIAL

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PAST US PREFINANCED EXPENSES AND OF THOSE NOW PROPOSED IN THE FY 1979 MILITARY CONSTRUCTION REQUESTS?

ANSWER: MISSION REP REPLIED WITH ANALYSIS ESSENTIALLY AS GIVEN IN USNATO 3139, INDICATING SHELTERS AND AMMUNITION SECURITY EXPENDITURES WOULD BE LARGELY REIMBURSED IN THE 1980-84 TIME FRAME, THAT PONCUS STORAGE FACILITIES WERE EXPECTED TO BE ELIGIBLE AND FUNDED IN THE SAME PERIOD, AND THAT MUNITIONS STORAGE FACILITIES' ELIGIBILITY WOULD DEPEND ON THE OUTCOME OF THE LONG TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM.

D. QUESTION: WHAT WERE THE CHANCES OF RECOUPMENT OF THE NEW AIR FORCE ITEMS FOR CONTINGENCY PAVEMENTS, CHEMICAL WARFARE PROTECTION, AND HARDENING OF VARIOUS AIRFIELD FACILITIES?

ANSWER: MISSION REP REPLIED THAT UNDER THE JUSTIFICATION CURRENTLY BEING PUT FORWARD BY THE AIR FORCE THERE WAS LITTLE CHANCE THAT FUND AVAILABILITY WOULD ALLOW NATO TO ACCORD HIGH PRIORITY TO THIS TYPE OF FACILITY. SHAPE REPS AGREED WITH THIS ANALYSIS AND INDICATED THAT NATO

EUROPE WAS RUNNING HARD TO CATCH UP WITH THE DEVELOPMENT WHICH US FORCES HAVE ALREADY ACHIEVED. THERE WAS A LARGE BACKLOG OF PROJECTS TO ACCOMPLISH THAT. THEY BELIEVED, HOWEVER, THAT SOME OF THE ITEMS, NOTABLY REDUNDANT PAVEMENT AT AIRFIELDS WITH AS MANY AS 80 STATIONED AIRCRAFT, MIGHT WELL BE JUSTIFIED AS MINIMUM MILITARY REQUIREMENTS FOR MORE COGENT AND PRESSING REASONS.

3. IN SUMMING UP THE TEAM'S VISIT TO EUROPE, MR.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 USNATO 03324

MCELIECE INDICATED HE BELIEVED THAT THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE WAS PLACING TOO MUCH EMPHASIS ON THE PRE-FINANCING ITEMS. HE UNDERSTOOD THE NECESSITY FOR SUBMITTING PREFINANCING STATEMENTS IN MANY CASES WHERE ELIGIBILITY MIGHT NEVER RESULT, SIMPLY AS A SAFETY PRECAUTION. HE BELIEVED FURTHER THAT CONGRESS SHOULD WEIGH REQUESTS MORE ON THE BASIS OF URGENCY OF MILITARY REQUIREMENTS THAN ON WHETHER OR NOT NATO MIGHT SOME DAY REPAY THE FUNDS. FINALLY, HE AGREED WITH THE MISSION POSITION THAT PREFINANCING ACCOUNTABILITY SHOULD BE LIMITED TO THOSE ITEMS FOR WHICH ELIGIBILITY WAS ALREADY NEARLY CERTAIN AT THE TIME OF PREFINANCING. WE BELIEVE THAT THE TEAM WAS SATISFIED WITH THE INFORMATION THEY HAD GATHERED AND THAT THEIR EVENTUAL REPORT WILL NOT BE ANTAGONISTIC TO THE PROGRAM. BENNETT

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